

Judicial Branch News

Accountability Court: Helping Remove Barriers





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Judicial Branch News

The Judicial Branch News is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations Department.

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Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Deborah Neild, Help Desk Coordinator
Miguel Quiroz, Judicial Clerk Senior
Michael Rountree, Case Management Administrator
Sarah Webster, Judicial Assistant

10 Years

Adeyemi Akanbi, Adult Probation Officer
Marla McDevitt, Case Administrator
Candice Werve, Administrative Assistant
Suzanne Ogara, Case Administrator
Lloyd Weaver, Procurement Specialist
Robert Bridget, PC/LAN Technician
Mario Cordero, Security Officer II
Raquel Enriquez-Outley, Judicial Clerk Senior
Jose Ortiz, Juvenile Detention Officer
Michael Watkins, Juvenile Detention Officer
Mark Liem, Management Analyst

15 Years

Teresa Deanda, Case Administrator
Tanya Luther, Administrative Assistant
Cedric Lamar, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Denise Tavana, Conference Officer,
Arthur Anderson, Superior Court Judge
Edna Amodei, Adult Probation Officer
Debra Rubenstein, Justice System Manager
Wendy DeCarlo, Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Linda Butler, Presentence Screener
Todd Brown, Adult Probation Officer
Wendy Buechler-Matlock, Adult Probation Officer
Raymundo Cruz, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Cheryl Piper, Adult Probation Officer
Valerie Lerma, Library Coordinator

25 Years

Richard Eggers, Computer Operator
Colleen Curran, Adult Probation Officer
Jennifer Lennox, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Cynthia Miles, Surveillance Officer
Sandra Paquet, Judicial Clerk Lead
Lisa Collins, Judicial Clerk Supervisor

32 Years

Cathy Santos, Management Analyst

** Information provided by Debbie Gilliland in the Human Resources Department.*

Court hires New Deputy Probate Administrator

Superior Court hired Brittaney Chipley as the new Deputy Court Administrator for the Probate and Mental Health Court Department.

For the last four years, Chipley worked as the case administrator and team coordinator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Phoenix. From 2007 to 2010, she worked at a bankruptcy law firm in Atlanta, GA as a legal specialist and trainer.

Chipley graduated Cum Laude from Georgia State University in 2007 with a B.A. degree in Political Science/Pre-Law and Sociology. She is scheduled to complete her MPA degree, with an emphasis in Government and Policy from Grand Canyon University, in February 2015.

In her new position, Chipley will be assisting Elaina Cano with the management of daily operations in the Probate and Mental Health Court Department.

In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities, fitness training and watching sports, especially the Washington Redskins football team.

Submitted by Richard Woods

Farewell to Gary Bridget

Gary Bridget has accepted the position of Human Resources Director for the Town of Oro Valley, Arizona.

Bridget began working for Judicial Branch HR in August 2004 as Senior Employee Relations Specialist. He was promoted to Employee Relations Administrator in 2006 and to Assistant HR Director in 2011. Most recently, Bridget was assigned to the Marshal's Office as the Deputy Director for Administrative Services. He leaves Maricopa County with 15 years of service.

"I'm excited about this new opportunity, I will miss working with the great people that are the Maricopa County Judicial Branch," Bridget said.

Accountability Court: Helping Remove Barriers



A child support payment is not just a bill; it's a parent's number one financial priority.

To make litigants aware of the great importance of paying unpaid child support and keep them current with their obligations, Superior Court has revamped Accountability Court.

"We have found that many parents with delinquent child support obligations want to pay their child support. However, because of employment barriers, they are simply unable to do so. The Court determined that a program which assisted parents with those employment barriers would benefit not only those parents, but also the other parent and the children. The program the Court ultimately developed is our Accountability Court," Family Court Presiding Judge Janet Barton said.



Litigants who are referred to Accountability Court by judicial officers are ordered to appear periodically at court proceedings until they demonstrate a history of consistent child support payments. People who fail to comply with their orders may be held in contempt of court. Currently, there are more than 350 people in the program who owe approximately \$16 million.

"Accountability Court provides appropriate resources to child support obligors who are currently unable to pay their support obligations on a consistent month-to-month basis," Commissioner Roger Hartsell said.



Accountability Court is a problem-solving court that offers service and assistance to its litigants. The court has partnered with various community partners to help participants find employment. They offer such services as resume help and job searches and provide items such as work clothing and hygiene products. Following their court date, litigants have the opportunity to visit a mobile job unit provided by St. Joseph the Worker, once a month, parked outside the courthouse. Also, everyone who is enrolled in Accountability Court attends an orientation class that offers money management and employment information.

"We have made changes to make orientation useful to parents. At orientation, a free class on managing income and expenses is taught by outside organizations," Deputy Family Court Administrator Brian Bledsoe said. "Parents are often engaged and learn valuable information that may assist them in their daily lives. Everyone can benefit from a class on managing money."



Litigants referred to Accountability Court differ from those who are sent to Enforcement Court. Those referred to Enforcement Court have the ability to make payments but are not willing. Accountability Court assists people who are willing to pay child support and physically able to do so, but are not fulfilling their obligation in a consistent manner due to an employment issue. The Court helps litigants in identifying the barriers to compliance and connects them with resources in the community. The focus is to break down the barriers for litigants so that they consistently pay their court ordered child support payments in full and on time.



Commissioner Hartsell currently presides over the Accountability Court calendar, which is held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

Investiture Ceremony



Arizona Supreme Court Justice Ann Scott Timmer delivers the oath of office to Judge Lori Horn Bustamante at her investiture ceremony.

Judge Ronan Retires

Judge Emmet J. Ronan has submitted his letter of retirement to Governor Jan Brewer.

Judge Ronan, who will be retiring at the end of the year, served as a Superior Court Judge for 15 years.

In his retirement letter, Judge Ronan wrote, "I have been blessed to work in the finest trial court in the United States. The Judicial Officers, Court Administrators, Clerk's and Staff have a well-deserved reputation around the country for their daily commitment to excellence and public service. They have helped make my time on the court one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

During his judicial career, Judge Ronan served rotations in the Juvenile, Family, Criminal and Civil Departments of the Court. He also served a term as the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge.

"Judge Ronan is widely known for his thoughtful and compassionate character, his unwavering commitment to doing the right thing, and his dedication to the rule of law. Emmet has mentored many of us over the years, and will be sorely missed on our bench. I wish him the best in pursuing his retirement plans and hope to see him often in the future," Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

New Market at Southeast

Superior Court transformed the old cafeteria at Southeast Court into an eatery that uses a revolutionary self-checkout kiosk.

The Avanti Market system, open only to county employees, is a new convenient style store that will provide customers with a selection of fresh food meal options, snacks and a variety of beverage choices.

To use the self-checkout: Simply pick out the items for purchase; Scan the UPC code (barcode) on the item at the kiosk and pay for the item at the kiosk using a credit or debit card or an Avanti Keytag. Avanti will provide a supply of free keytags at each location

Submitted by Tanya Luther

ACM Graduation Ceremony



Left to right - Jill Siller, Faye White, Paula Collins and Angela Maddox completed the Arizona Court Manager's program at the Arizona Supreme Court.

Photo Highlights: Maricopa County Veterans Day Celebration

Maricopa County hosted a Veterans Day Celebration in the Board of Supervisors' Auditorium in Phoenix. Superior Court's Gary Bridget served as master of ceremonies; Cindy Reid was the keynote speaker and E. Lamont Leonard, Adult Probation Department, sang the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.



Cindy Reid is greeted by her colleagues in Court Administration following Maricopa County's Veteran's Day Celebration.



Master of Ceremonies Gary Bridget.



Cindy Reid giving her speech to a packed house of Maricopa County employees in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium.



Cindy Reid (left) and Gary Bridget (right).

National Adoption Day 2014

On Saturday, November 22, three hundred and eleven children were adopted on National Adoption Day at Juvenile Court, Durango.

